



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 98**

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 433

*Senate, March 21, 2013*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A CONNECTICUT DEMOCRACY INDEX.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the State  
2       shall develop a Connecticut Democracy Index for the evaluation of  
3       primaries, as defined in section 9-372 of the general statutes, and  
4       regular elections, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, held  
5       on or after January 1, 2014, for federal, state and municipal offices. In  
6       preparation of the index, the Secretary shall establish and operate a  
7       data collection system to collect and measure data, as described in  
8       subsection (c) of this section. The Secretary shall update such index  
9       after each regular election and make such index available to the public  
10      through the Internet.

11      (b) The Secretary of the State shall design the index in a manner that  
12      (1) provides assistance to the Secretary and the municipalities in the  
13      administration of primaries and regular elections for federal, state and  
14      municipal offices, and (2) presents data on a town-by-town basis, in a

15 manner designed to demonstrate administration practices that (A)  
 16 ensure the right of individuals to vote, (B) improve the quality of voter  
 17 access to polls and the quality of voter services, and (C) secure the  
 18 accuracy and integrity of elections.

19 (c) The Secretary of the State shall determine which data to collect  
 20 for the Connecticut Democracy Index. The Secretary shall analyze such  
 21 data, using results-based accountability principles, to determine the  
 22 effectiveness of the administration of primaries and regular elections  
 23 for federal, state and municipal offices.

24 (d) Not later than August 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the  
 25 Secretary of the State shall report to the joint standing committees of  
 26 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
 27 elections and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies in  
 28 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
 29 and to the chief elected official and registrars of voters of each  
 30 municipality. Such report shall include any recommendations for (1)  
 31 improving the types of data that are collected and included in the  
 32 Connecticut Democracy Index, and (2) legislation or administrative  
 33 action to improve state and municipal performance in the  
 34 administration of primaries and regular elections for federal, state and  
 35 municipal offices, as determined based on a town-by-town comparison  
 36 of such data.

37 (e) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations in accordance  
 38 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to implement  
 39 the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill, which requires the Secretary of the State (SOTS) to develop and implement an index to evaluate the administration of primaries and regular elections for federal, state, and municipal offices, has no fiscal impact. Data gathered during and after elections will be centrally housed and analyzed in the SOTS office using existing systems and resources.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 433*****AN ACT CONCERNING A CONNECTICUT DEMOCRACY INDEX.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the secretary of the state to develop a Connecticut Democracy Index (CDI) to evaluate the effectiveness of primaries and regular elections for federal, state, and municipal offices held on or after January 2014. Under the bill, the secretary must (1) establish and operate a data collection system, (2) determine which data to collect, and (3) analyze the data using results-based accountability principles. She must update the CDI after each election and make it publicly available through the Internet.

By August 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, the secretary must report on the CDI to the (1) Appropriations and Government Administration and Elections committees and (2) chief elected official and registrars of voters of each municipality. The report must include any recommendations for (1) improving the type of election data that the CDI monitors and (2) legislative or administrative actions to improve state and municipal primary and election administration performance. The recommendations must be based on a town-by-town data comparison.

The bill authorizes the secretary to adopt regulations to implement its provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**CDI DESIGN**

The bill requires the secretary of the state to design the CDI in a manner that assists her office and municipalities with administering primaries and regular elections for federal, state, and municipal offices.

The CDI must present data on a town-by-town basis so that it demonstrates administration practices that (1) ensure individual voting rights, (2) improve the quality of voter services and poll access, and (3) secure election accuracy and integrity.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 8      Nay 5      (03/04/2013)